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From the Editors

We hereby present the eighth volume of *Interdisciplinary Studies in Musicology*, entitled 'Music between nature and culture'. It represents the fruits of the conference under the same title held in Poznań on 20–22 October 2008. The conference was organised by the Division of Musicologists of the Polish Composers' Union, the Department of Musicology of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań and The Poznań Society for the Advancement of the Arts and Sciences, and it attracted musicologists and music theorists from various academic centres in Poland.

As the published papers show, the topic may be considered from at least three perspectives, which of course, in particular instances, are interrelated. The historical perspective encompasses all reflection on music, including the views of composers, theorists and performers, concerning music's relations with culture and with nature. The ontological perspective treats of the existential status of music and attempts to answer the question as to whether music is a product of culture, a social construct or 'invention', or, quite the opposite, 'something' which derives from the order of nature, however we might wish to understand it – in scientific, material or creationist terms. Finally, the methodological perspective shows the multitude of currents and points of view contained within contemporary musicology, from philosophy and history to cultural anthropology, cognitivism and biomusicology.

Not all the papers delivered to the Poznań conference could be presented in the present volume. In spite of the fact that the published texts concern just a few aspects of the wide range of problems connected with the relations between music, nature and culture, we hope that the present publication as a whole will help to enhance discussion on the form of those relations.

The editors offer their sincere thanks to all the authors for their efforts, and to Professor Jacek Witkoś, deputy vice-chancellor of Adam Mickiewicz University, for his kind support.

*Maciej Jabłoński
Ryszard J. Wieczorek*

